

REMARKS

Applicant and the undersigned reviewed the Office Action carefully before preparing this response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, in light of the position presented herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Numerous claims were rejected under either 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103, as either anticipated by or rendered obvious in light of the Sharoni reference. However, applicant completed the invention claimed in the present application before the effective date of the Sharoni reference. More particularly, the invention recited in independent claims 1 and 9 was conceived and with due diligence reduced to practice prior to the effective date of the Sharoni reference. Such prior invention is supported, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, by the Declaration of Inventor David C. Dunand and incorporated copies of pages of his laboratory research notebook.

Without limitation to any one embodiment, composites of the sort recited in claim 1 are described in Exhibit A on pages 134-35 and 148-54. Likewise, without limitation, composites of the sort recited in claim 9 are described on pages 134-35 and 141-47 of Exhibit A.

Accordingly, the Sharoni reference does not anticipate the present invention. The rejection should be withdrawn, with all pending claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowability of claims 7-8, 10, 13 and 14. However, in light of the preceding, all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Consistent therewith, favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rodney D. DeKruif".

Rodney D. DeKruif
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